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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Powell: We will warn the Kurds - Hurriyet
Bremer warns Kurds - Hurriyet
Turkish troops will pass through N. Iraq - Milliyet
Turkish troops in Iraq in November at the latest -
Turkiye
TGS considering 16,000 troops for Iraq - Milliyet
Bremer can't convince the Iraqis - Sabah
Israel might strike 17 targets in Damascus - Hurriyet
Governor Arnie - Huriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Rumsfeld appreciates Turkey's Iraq decision -
Cumhuriyet
Bremer to Iraqis: U.S. will have the last word -
Cumhuriyet
Rumsfeld angered at transfer of Iraq authority to Rice
- Zaman
EU respects Turkey's Iraq decision - Zaman
Dutch PM supports Turkey on Iraq - Yeni Safak
Yearly cost of Turkish troops in Iraq, \$540 million -
Yeni Safak
EU respects Turkey's Iraq decision, Athens criticizes -
Radikal
Israel stepping up tension - Radikal
Bush considering economic sanctions on Syria - Zaman

BRIEFING

Location of Turkish peacekeepers in Iraq: "Hurriyet"
says that Ankara wants to deploy troops around
Salahaddin to be closer to the Turkmen population in
the north. However, the Americans believe that having
Turks around the Kurdish town of Salahaddin would cause
serious concerns, and the U.S. prefers that they be
deployed in the al-Anbar zone, northwest of Baghdad.
Turkey is considering sending 5,000-6,000 troops
initially under the command of Major General Umit
Sahinturk, who will work in coordination with General
Ricardo Sanchez. "Milliyet" writes that the TGS has
drafted plans for deployment of 6,000-16,000 soldiers
in Iraq. Poland and Iraq will send delegations to
Ankara to discuss economic issues related to the
deployment.
Ankara wants transit passage through N. Iraq: The MFA
said that Turkey wants to use a Northern Iraq corridor
for transit passage of troops into Iraq. An MFA
spokesman dismissed objections by members of the Iraqi
Governing Council, saying that they had voiced only
their personal views. "Turkey has no hidden agenda in
Iraq. It is out in the open for everybody to see," MFA
Spokesman Huseyin Dirioz told reporters at a news
conference in Ankara on Wednesday. Ankara also wants
to use Syrian territory for the transport of armored
brigades via railroad into Iraq, according to
"Milliyet." Ankara is planning to establish a direct
motorway connection between the Turkish logistical
support center in Silopi and the headquarters of
Turkish troops in Iraq. The U.S. thinks Turkey should
not open a corridor through Northern Iraq for transport
of logistical supply, and offered to meet the costs of
sending and sustaining Turkish peacekeepers to Iraq.
Turkey rejected the offer, saying it would provide for
its own troops in Iraq, "Sabah" reports.
Washington moves to silence Kurds' opposition to

Turkish peacekeepers: Secretary of State Powell phoned Foreign Minister Gul to assure him about statements by Iraqi governing council officials objecting to Turkish peacekeepers in Iraq. Papers report Paul Bremer as reminding that the final decision regarding a Turkish military presence in Iraq will be made by the coalition, not by the Iraqis. "Vatan" believes Bremer failed to convince the Kurds to accept Turkish troops. Papers also report Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld as assuring Turkey that such problems would be resolved. Turkey might receive additional U.S. loans: The U.S. State Department has signaled that Turkey might be given financial support in addition to the \$8.5 billion loan provided recently by Washington. "Radikal" speculates that the U.S. could meet the cost of the Turkish troop deployment in Iraq. "Hurriyet" thinks the U.S. will meet some of the cost of the deployment. "Hurriyet" estimates the yearly expenses of Turkish troops in Iraq at \$60 million, while "Yeni Safak" claims it would amount to \$540 million. FM Gul briefs mission chiefs on Turks to Iraq: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul briefed all foreign ambassadors based in Ankara on the deployment decision on Wednesday. Gul reportedly gave the following messages: Turkey, acting in line with UN Resolution 1483, will enhance the stabilization of Iraq. But Turkey would still regard a new UN resolution as significant. Turkish troops will face fewer problems in Iraq, since the Iraqis are relatives and brothers of the Turks. Responding to a question about the opposition voiced by some Iraqi Governing Council members, Gul said that convincing the Iraqis was a U.S. responsibility.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Turkish troops for Iraq

"The Decree Success"

Fikret Ertan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (10/9): "The parliamentary decision is an important step toward Turkey's possible role in Iraq. Following the negotiation process with the US, and after making sure of the protection of crucial Turkish national interests, the Turkish forces will have their place in Iraq. . In the meantime, there are circles who try to undermine Turkey's possible involvement in Iraq. Anti-Turkish statements by Kurdish groups are deliberately highlighted in an exaggerated tone. . Such efforts led to the rejection of Turkish involvement by the Turkish parliament on March 1. This time, despite the opposition's efforts, the authorization decree has been approved. The credit should go to the AKP leadership, including Prime Minister Erdogan and Foreign Minister Gul."

"Historic Decision by Turkish Democracy"

Cengiz Candar commented in conservative DB Tercuman (10/9): "The parliament's decision has provided a clear and strong message: The Turkish military presence in Iraq will be a temporary peace mission, it does not intend to become an occupational force. The decision also provides support for the US. Let us not forget the fact that any failure the US might experience in Iraq will have a colossal effect and would be directly against Turkey's regional interests. . The technical details to be worked out with the US. However, Turkey should not wait for the UN decision, nor even mention it. Being part of a UN force will only lessen Turkey's role and influence. Turkey should arrange its mission by having bilateral contacts with the US, and it should be given equal status with the UK. Turkish forces in Iraq should be significant, and more the better. Sending only a symbolic number of troops does not make any sense. As far as Turkey's involvement is concerned, Turkey should think of sending possibly more than 10,000 troops. The issue of Turkish military presence in Iraq should be worked out via consensus within the Iraqi Governing Council as well

EDELMAN